

INNOVATIVE THINKING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN YOUTH: AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH

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Abstract

This article addresses the issues of raising the future generation of our country, training them as well-rounded, humane, and responsible individuals towards society and nature, as well as increasing the activity of highly spiritual youth in the social and political spheres of our country.

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, Third Renaissance, development, strong civil society, spirituality, culture, advancement, youth, tasks, innovative thinking, loyalty to national ideology, spiritual and educational advocacy, advocacy mechanisms, youth policy, improving legal culture of youth, national education system, modern technologies.

Introduction

In the path to achieving the noble goal of building New Uzbekistan, one of the key priorities of state policy is to focus on and care for the determined and courageous youth, providing them with the necessary conditions and opportunities to fully realize their abilities and potential in all fields.

In recent years, a completely new system for working with youth has been created in our country, and ensuring their legal rights and interests, as well as fulfilling their dreams, capabilities, and potential, has become one of the most prioritized directions of state policy.

As emphasized by our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, “We must pay special attention to enhancing the political and social potential of young people, ensuring their active participation in the democratic processes of our country.”[1]

It is well known that the historical development of any state is closely linked to its rapid progress, achievements, and the well-being of its people, which are directly dependent on the level of attention given to the education, upbringing, and future of youth in that country. In this regard, youth issues are one of the most prioritized areas of state policy in Uzbekistan.

In our country, comprehensive measures are being implemented in the field of youth policy. Over time, a special system has been created to fully support young people, protect their rights and legal interests, and raise proactive, determined, and responsible youth who are capable of taking on the responsibility for the country’s future.

Enhancing legal awareness and legal culture in society is one of the most crucial conditions for ensuring the rule of law and strengthening legality.

In Uzbekistan, a strong legal framework has been established to protect the rights and interests



of youth and to create necessary conditions and opportunities for them. This system is continuously improved in line with the demands of the times. Specifically, to date, more than 40 legal documents related to youth have been adopted by Parliament, and over 30 international legal documents have been ratified. The insufficient legal knowledge of the population, along with the fact that citizens rarely use the right to challenge decisions by state bodies in court, has contributed to violations of citizens' rights and legal interests by public officials.

Moreover, in the current era of globalization and scientific-technical advancement, the innovative methods of improving the legal awareness and legal culture of the population, the advanced and effective tools of advocacy, and the positive experiences of foreign countries in this regard are not being sufficiently utilized.

In order to develop effective solutions to youth issues and ensure the implementation of tasks related to advancing the state youth policy in our country, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Decree No. 23 on January 18, 2021, titled "On Approving the Concept of Developing Youth Policy in Uzbekistan Until 2025." [2]

The processes of globalization in the world, the need for an innovative society, and the development of science and technology are creating numerous opportunities for youth, while also setting various demands, such as the need to make quick decisions, form innovative thinking, and enhance intellectual capacity. In general, Uzbekistan is mobilizing all its resources and capabilities to create modern, advanced, and innovative conditions for the education of youth, their professional development, and their growth into mature individuals.

In particular, in his speech at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev emphasized that the future of our planet and its prosperity is closely linked to how our children grow and develop as individuals. He stated that our main task is to create the necessary conditions for youth to realize their potential and to prevent the spread of the "virus" of violence. For this, he believes it is necessary to develop multifaceted cooperation in social support for youth and the protection of their rights and interests. Furthermore, he proposed the development of a generalized international legal document—the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Youth—to shape and implement youth policy in Uzbekistan, in line with the current conditions of rapid globalization and the development of information and communication technologies.

Therefore, the more attention is paid to the comprehensive support of the younger generation, their upbringing as morally mature, physically healthy, patriotic, and dedicated individuals, and the protection of their rights and interests, the higher the results will be. For this reason, Uzbekistan views the youth, recognized as the active segment of society, not as a "problem" but as a powerful force contributing to the country's development and a strategic resource of the state. As a result, today, highly educated, modern-minded, and determined youth are becoming an increasingly decisive force in the country's future development.

As the wise say, "The more perfect the upbringing, the happier the people will be." In order for upbringing to be perfect, there should be no room for any gaps in this matter. [3]

As we live in the 21st century, a time of rapid changes and increasing complexity, we cannot overlook one of the most important realities of the modern era. That is, countries that possess significant human capital, with youth occupying a major place in this capital, have the advantage of sustained development, the successful accumulation of innovation potential, and the effective



management of their achievements.

Young people around the world are facing new challenges, including access to healthcare services, quality education, finding decent work, participating in internal and external labor migration, ensuring food security, maintaining proper nutrition, and coping with social isolation and alienation from society. In this context, it is crucial to maintain and improve legal mechanisms for protecting youth rights.

Most importantly, youth is a powerful force that initiates deep renewal and leads the way for courageous changes. They bear the responsibility of demonstrating their full potential and creating an acceptable and prosperous life for both the current and future generations.

However, from a social perspective, it is also true that the younger generation is eager, and at times in need, of the support of both the state and society in all aspects of life. In particular, today, there are numerous challenges awaiting practical solutions, such as allocating funds aimed at the development of youth, implementing effective youth policies in practice, building modern infrastructure, and addressing issues related to the protection of human rights.

Therefore, in the path to achieving the noble goal of building New Uzbekistan, one of the main priorities of state policy is to focus on and care for the determined and courageous youth, providing them with the necessary conditions and opportunities to fully realize their abilities and potential in all fields.

As our President emphasized: "In order to accomplish the enormous tasks before us, we must develop a national ideology that will be the source of our strength. Specifically, we must understand our national identity, study the ancient and rich history of our homeland, enhance scientific research in this area, and fully support the activities of humanities scholars." [4]

Central Asia is the youngest region in the world, with an average population age of 27.6 years. Nearly 50% of the region's population resides in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In our country, 18.9 million people, or 54% of the population, are youth and children under the age of 30. Of these youth, 9.5 million are male and 9.4 million are female.

The implementation of strategic tasks aimed at increasing the effectiveness of youth policy in Uzbekistan, both in the short and long term, significantly contributes to ensuring stability, peace, and prosperity in the country. More than 830 non-governmental non-profit organizations and public associations are actively working to protect the interests of youth in the Republic. For the first time in the history of our country, the Uzbekistan Youth Forum was held on December 25, 2020, with the participation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Over thirty thousand young people attended the forum, where the head of state engaged in dialogue with the youth, supporting their ideas, proposals, and initiatives.

In 2021 alone, nearly 6 million energetic and ambitious young people participated in festivals under the slogan "Youth of New Uzbekistan, Let's Unite!" These festivals were a demonstration of maturity and true patriotism. Specifically, on June 30, 2021, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, participated in the Uzbekistan Youth and Students Forum.

Moreover, on August 12-13, 2021, the "Global Movement for Youth Engagement" World Conference on Youth Rights was held in Tashkent, where the Tashkent Youth Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the event.

During the "Year of Supporting Youth and Strengthening Public Health," the Government of Uzbekistan implemented the State Program aimed at realizing the new initiatives and ideas



presented at the Uzbekistan Youth and Students Forum. To ensure the fulfillment of the tasks outlined in the State Program, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued Decree No. PF-6260 on July 13, 2021, titled "Additional Measures to Further Support Youth and Increase Their Social Activity." The decree emphasizes that every year, ahead of Uzbekistan Youth Day, the Government Program, as well as specific regional programs for the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional administrations, and local authorities in Tashkent city, will be adopted. These programs will include complex measures aimed at enhancing the knowledge and vocational skills of youth, creating decent employment and living conditions, and organizing meaningful leisure time.

Thus, the social development process is increasingly dependent on the youth, their spiritual and intellectual potential, and their level of political and legal knowledge. Understanding these factors correctly, in the context of the country's current development stage, the adoption of the "Concept for Developing State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan until 2025" by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on January 18, 2021, reflects the goal of instilling love for the motherland and loyalty to it in our youth from an early age.

In today's complex era, nurturing our youth to be resilient, patriotic individuals capable of overcoming various challenges holds great significance in strengthening and uniting our nation. Undoubtedly, the unique system of self-governance provided by the mahalla plays a crucial role in this regard.

In conclusion, it must be emphasized that the future of our country lies in the hands of the younger generation, and nurturing them as well-rounded, humanitarian, and responsible individuals towards society and nature is one of our primary goals. The deep essence of the massive reforms being carried out in our country today is centered on the idea of "National revival towards national prosperity." National prosperity is not only aimed at the spiritual domain but also envisions the development of all areas of our lives, including a democratic society and rule of law, a prosperous and peaceful life, and economic stability.

It is of paramount importance to implement joint programs in the fields of education, science, culture, and sports with the involvement of the younger generation, who make up the majority of our population.

Our goal is for our youth to become competitive in professions with high demand globally and, if necessary, surpass others by one step. To achieve this goal, we are committed to elevating vocational education, particularly technical schools, to a new quality level. Starting in 2026, we will repair at least 100 technical schools annually, equipping them according to technological advancements and high-demand professions. The number of technical schools with advanced educational programs, similar to those implemented in countries like Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, China, and Korea, will reach 100, as emphasized by our President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev.[5]

Youth is our invaluable wealth, and we all deeply understand this. The fate and future of our country and people are directly tied to the quality of education and upbringing the younger generation receives, as well as the opportunities and "social lifts" we create for them.

In general, in the current era of progress, the country's consistent economic reforms are viewed as an integral part of social development. This reflects the need to further improve the mechanisms for educating young people who are intellectually capable, creatively talented, and



equipped with modern knowledge and skills, while also being responsible for the bright future of our nation.

The conditions being created for young people in our country to realize their potential and ambitions will, in the future, enable them to be nurtured into well-rounded individuals, developed as competitive professionals, and to contribute to the prosperity of our country and the peace of the nation through their innovative ideas and initiatives.

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